

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BANGKO 10552 280305Z

70

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01

AID-20 /110 W

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R 271018Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4602

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

13TH ADVON

AMCONSUL UDORN

CINCPAC

S E C R E T BANGKOK 10552

SECDEF FOR OASD:PA; CINCPAC FOR PAO

E.O. 11652: AGDS DECLASSIFIED AFTER 0002Z 28 JUN 74

TAGS: MARR, TH, US

SUBJECT: LOCAL PRESS SAYS TAKHLI AND UBON TO CLOSE

1. THE RTG HAS ADVISED US THAT THEY PLAN TO RELEASE THE FOLLOWING ANNOUNCEMENT TO THE PRESS AT 0700 HOURS LOCAL JUNE 28:

QUOTE. REPRESENTATIVES OF THE THAI AND USG HAVE AGREED ON FURTHER REDUCTIONS OF US FORCES AND AIRCRAFT IN THAILAND. DURING JULY, AN ADDITIONAL 39 AIRCRAFT ARE SCHEDULED TO LEAVE: NINE MORE B-52S FROM UTAPAO RTNAFB AND 30 F-4S FROM UDORN RTAFB. THESE AIRCRAFT WILL BE REDISTRIBUTED WITHIN THE USAF INVENTORY.

THE TWO GOVERNMENT ALSO HAVE DECIDED THAT MOST US AIR FORCE ACTIVITIES AT UBON RTAFB CAN BE TERMINATED BY THE END OF 1974. A SMALL NUMBER OF USAF PERSONNEL WILL REMAIN THERE TO MAINTAIN BASE FACILITIES.

SECRET

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PAGE 02 BANGKO 10552 280305Z

IT PREVIOUSLY WAS ANNOUNCED THAT ALL US AIR

FORCE OPERATIONS AT TAKHLI RTAFB WOULD BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF 1974. FOLLOWING FURTHER DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TWO GOVERNMENTS, THE EFFECTIVE DATE HAS NOW BEEN SET FOR OCTOBER 1. DURING JULY, THE F-111 FIGHTER BOMBER AIRCRAFT AT TAKHLI RTAFB WILL MOVE TO KORAT RTAFB. OTHER AIRCRAFT AND PERSONNEL WILL BE MOVING BETWEEN BASES IN THAILAND TO MAINTAIN OPERATIONAL CAPABILITIES.

SINCE THE MARCH 29 THAI-US ANNOUNCEMENT CONCERNING APPROVED REDUCTIONS, APPROXIMATELY 170 AIRCRAFT AND ABOUT 3000 SERVICEMEN HAVE LEFT THAILAND. WITH THE JUNE REDUCTIONS, THE NUMBER OF US MILITARY PERSONNEL REMAINING IN THAILAND HAS BEEN REDUCED TO APPROXIMATELY 32,000. END QUOTE.

2. AS WE HAVE INDICATED IN PREVIOUS TRAFFIC THIS IN NO WAY ASSURES THAT THE FINAL STATEMENT WILL PRECISELY FOLLOW CO-ORDINATED TEXT AS QUOTED; HOWEVER, AFTER 0001Z 28 JUNE 74 PRESS RELEASES ALONG THE LINES OF THE QUOTED TEXT ARE AUTHORIZED FOR RELEASE TO THE US PRESS.

3. FYI. STORIES HAVE APPEARED IN ENGLISH-LANGUAGE NEWSPAPERS IN LAST TWO DAYS SPECULATING ABOUT WITHDRAWAL OF US FORCES AND PLANES FROM TAKHLI AND UBON. STORY ON FRONT PAGE OF BANGKOK WORLD JUNE 26 STATED THAT ACCORDING TO AN OFFICIAL SOURCE RTG WOULD ANNOUNCE THE CLOSURE OF THE TWO BASES THIS WEEK. STORY ON FRONT PAGE OF BANGKOK POST JUNE 27 ENTITLED "UBON, TAKHLI GET THE AXE" SAYS ANNOUNCEMENT ON END OF US PRESENCE AT TAKHLI AND UBON TO BE MADE JUNE 27 OR 28. STORY ALSO STATES THAT KORAT RTAFB LIKELY TO ABSORB SOME OF THE AIR UNITS TO BE PULLED OUT OF UBON AND TAKHLI. THESE STORIES ADD TO RUMORS OF BASE CLOSURES WHICH ARE ALREADY RIFE, PARTICULARLY IN BASE TOWNS TO BE AFFECTED. RELEASE IN PARA 1 SHOULD HELP CLARIFY SITUATION.  
KINTNER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, MILITARY AIRCRAFT, TROOP REDUCTIONS, MILITARY BASES, MILITARY BASE CLOSINGS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 27 JUN 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** BoyleJA  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974BANGKO10552  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** AS SIFIED AFTER 0002Z 28 JUN 74  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Office:** ACTION EA  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** BoyleJA  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 12 AUG 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <12-Aug-2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <24 MAR 2003 by BoyleJA>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** LOCAL PRESS SAYS TAKHLI AND UBON TO CLOSE  
**TAGS:** MARR, TH, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005